

**Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)  
Scientific Committee (SC) Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 21, 2004**  
**Hyatt Regency New Orleans at Louisiana Superdome**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions Dr. James Kendall, MMS Chief Scientist and Committee Executive Secretary of the OCS SC
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	MMS HQ Presentation Mr. Robert LaBelle, Deputy Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional Overview Mr. Chris Oynes, Director, MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Break
9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Some Highlights of the MMS <i>Environmental Studies Program</i> and Our Goal for the Next Day-and-Half Dr. James Kendall
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Overview of the Coastal Marine Institute, Louisiana State University Dr. Larry Rouse, Director
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Ethics Responsibilities of Committee Members Mr. Art Gary, Deputy Ethics Director, Department of the Interior
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Break
12:00 noon. – 12:30 p.m.	Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian
12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	Lunch

**Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)  
Scientific Committee (SC) Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 21, 2003**  
**Hyatt Regency New Orleans at Louisiana Superdome**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**  
**(Afternoon Session)**

2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.      Charge to the Discipline Subcommittees  
    Chair, OCS Scientific Committee

Physical Sciences, Biology, and Socioeconomic Disciplines meet separately to discuss national and regional studies plans.

	<b>Biology/Ecology Decommissioning</b>	<b>Physical Sciences Phys-O, Air Quality, Hydrates</b>	<b>Social Sciences</b>
<b>2:15 - 3:30</b>	Pacific	Gulf of Mexico/HQ	Room Available for social scientists & other discussions
<b>3:30 - 3:45</b>	Break	Break	Break
<b>3:45 - 5:00</b>	Pacific	Gulf of Mexico/HQ	Room Available for Social Scientists & other discussions

## **Associate Director's Presentation**

As advisor to the Director, MMS, the Committee appreciates the opportunity to have a dialogue with the Director and the Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management on ongoing and future issues, policies, and activities of the Bureau. This exchange not only keeps the Committee apprised of MMS direction but also offers an opportunity for the Committee to provide direct advice and guidance on matters as they relate to the Environmental Studies Program.

## **Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional Overview**

Mr. Chris Oynes, Gulf of Mexico Regional Director, will provide an overview of ongoing and planned activities on the Gulf of Mexico OCS.

## **Some Highlights of the MMS *Environmental Studies Program* and Our Goal for the Next Day-and-Half**

The MMS Headquarters ESP presentation will outline the overall objectives of the meeting, the process by which the various disciplines fit together in the overall picture, and potential studies efforts and issues for the future.

## **Overview of the Coastal Marine Institute**

The MMS Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) initiative was proposed in 1991 as an MMS-State partnership to strengthen relationships with coastal states where OCS oil and gas activities take place and to improve the information flow to the affected States and the public. It accomplishes this by using State institutions to conduct research on issues of concern to both the State and MMS. This research is focused on environmental and socioeconomic aspects of OCS oil and gas and marine mineral development activities. Through the CMI's, increasing numbers of students and faculty are engaging in OCS related research, developing new skills, and developing new information and approaches to solving management issues.

In recognition of the mutual need for critical scientific information for resource management decisions, the CMI program leverages MMS funds with State funds (one-to-one matching is required) so that more research can be done than if MMS funded all the work itself. The first cooperative agreement under the CMI program was signed in 1992 with the State of Louisiana and Louisiana State University. A second cooperative agreement was signed with the State of Alaska and the University of Alaska in 1993. A third agreement was signed with the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1994. Approximately 18% of the Environmental Studies Program budget is allocated to research conducted through the CMI's.

## **The Louisiana State University Coastal Marine Institute**

The Coastal Marine Institute at Louisiana State University was formed in 1993 under a five year Cooperative Agreement between the University and the Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior. The program has been continued with a Second Cooperative Agreement for another five years. Final arrangements are being made for continuation of the agreement for another five years.

The purpose of the LSU-CMI Program is to permit MMS to take advantage of highly qualified, scientific expertise at local levels to: collect and disseminate environmental information needed for OCS oil and gas and marine minerals decisions; address local and regional OCS related environmental and resource issues of mutual interest; and strengthen the MMS-State of Louisiana partnership in addressing OCS oil and gas and marine minerals information needs.

Since the beginning of the agreement in 1993, 105 projects have been funded - 50 are presently active though several of these are in the process of preparing final project reports. Approximately \$23 million in research contracts have been awarded by MMS through the CMI program to researchers at LSU and other institutions. Each year, \$2,000,000 is available from MMS to fund research on MMS/OCS related issues. This money is matched on a 1:1 basis from university, state, and industry funds, so that \$4,000,000 worth of research is initiated each year. The total since 1993 is over \$45 million. In addition to funding the research of scientists at LSU, more than 50 graduate and 50 undergraduate students have been supported through these projects

Funded Projects have come from the variety of disciplines relevant to MMS/OCS needs, including sociology, economics, platform ecology and fisheries, physical oceanography of the Gulf of Mexico, geomorphology studies related to offshore sand mining.

## **Ethics Responsibilities of Committee Members**

Under applicable ethics laws, your appointment carries with it the status of “special government employee.” This means that, when you act in your capacity as a committee member you will be subject to many of the same standards of conduct that apply to Federal employees in general, including the avoidance of conflict of interest. But because your service is not full-time, many of the restrictions apply to you only in limited circumstances. As a special government employee you also will be required to file a confidential financial disclosure form at the beginning of your service and upon any reappointment.

## **Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian**

**Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)  
Scientific Committee (SC) Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 22, 2004**  
**Hyatt Regency New Orleans at Louisiana Superdome**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**

	<b>Interdisciplinary/ Biology/Ecology</b>	<b>Physical Sciences</b>	<b>Social Sciences</b>
<b>8:00- 9:30</b>	Sand & Gravel		Alaska-Social Sciences
<b>9:30 - 10:00</b>	Break	Break	Break
<b>10:00 - 12:00</b>	Sand & Gravel	Alaska (Biol/Ecol)	Gulf/HQ-Social Sciences
<b>12:00 - 1:30</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>1:30 - 3:30</b>	Gulf Biology	Alaska (Phys-O)	
<b>3:30 - 3:45</b>	Break	Break	Break
<b>3:45 - 5:30</b>	Biol./Ecol. Chairs and MMS Recorder Finalize Recommendations	Physical Sciences Chairs and MMS Recorder Finalize Recommendations	Social Sciences Chairs and MMS Recorder Finalize Recommendations

**Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)  
Scientific Committee (SC) Meeting  
Friday, April 23, 2004  
Hyatt Regency New Orleans at Louisiana Superdome  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Plenary Session Opening Comments, Chair, OCS SC
8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Discipline Subcommittee Reports (20 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biology</li><li>• Physical Oceanography</li><li>• Socioeconomics</li></ul>
9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00 a.m. –11:00a.m.	Open Discussion of Subcommittee Reports
11:00 a.m. –11:30a.m.	Public Comment
11:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m.	Committee Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Items for Letter to the Director</li><li>• Emerging Issues/Topics of Interest</li><li>• Other Business</li><li>• Dates and locations for the next meeting</li></ul>
12:30 p.m.	Adjourn the meeting

## **Discipline Subcommittee Reports**

Each Subcommittee will report on the national and regional studies plans that were discussed during the breakout sessions.

## **Open Discussion of Subcommittee Reports**

## **Public Comment**

## **Committee Business**

- The Committee will discuss and comment on the Subcommittee Reports.
- Items for the Letter to the Director will be submitted.
- Emerging Issues/Topics of Interest
- Other business will be discussed.
- Possible dates and locations will be discussed for the next SC meeting.